

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 13-195

UNITIL ENERGY SYSTEMS, INC.

2013 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan

ORDER OF NOTICE

On July 16, 2013, Unitil Energy Systems, Inc. (UES) filed its 2013 Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan (LCIRP) pursuant to RSA 378:8. The filing states that UES consists of two electric distribution systems—the UES Capital system and the UES Seacoast system. UES's LCIRP filing contains an overview of UES's planning procedures along with related appendices including UES's distribution planning and design guidelines, separate evaluations of UES's Capital distribution system planning and UES's Seacoast distribution system planning, load history and ten-year design forecasts for both the Capital and Seacoast regions, separate reliability studies for the Capital and Seacoast regions, and UES's demand side management report.

With its filing, UES requested a waiver pursuant to RSA 378:38-a authorizing the Commission to waive the requirement to file a LCIRP filed by an electric utility pursuant to RSA 378:38 except for plans related to transmission and distribution. In support of this request, UES stated that it does not own any generation plant or facilities and is not a party to any long term purchase power contracts. The Commission granted the waiver by secretarial letter dated July 19, 2013.

In its overview of the LCIRP, UES states that its affiliate, Unitil Service Corp., performs various and ongoing planning activities to assess the short-term and long-term requirements and

capabilities of UES's electric distribution system. Those activities include distribution system planning to evaluate primary distribution circuits and substations, electric system planning to evaluate UES's subtransmission facilities and system supply points, joint system planning to evaluate the external delivery system which provides UES access to regional transmission and generation resources, and participation in statewide and regional transmission planning efforts.

According to UES, it does not own any transmission facilities and is dependent on others to provide the physical access to the region's transmission and generation resources. UES receives transmission services from Northeast Utilities (NU) for connection to the region's transmission system. Because the UES system does not presently include transformation facilities to step down directly from the NU transmission system, power is delivered to both the UES Capital and UES Seacoast systems at the 34.5 kV distribution level at several locations via supplemental distribution service from Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH). UES states that a joint system planning process was set up between UES and PSNH to establish an annual review for the integrated, least cost planning of wholesale delivery facilities that affect both companies' systems.

UES states that its distribution system planning process has historically focused exclusively on the capabilities of the distribution system infrastructure to satisfy the peak demands resulting from current and projected circuit and system load requirements. According to the filing, consumer choices—those that increase demand such as increased air-conditioning, and those that reduce demand such as energy efficiency and self-generation—have complicated the forecasting process. UES included a Demand Side Management Planning Report with its filing to demonstrate its evaluation of the challenges in demand side resource planning.

The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, will be posted to the Commission's website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2013/13-195.html>.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to whether UES's planning process for transmission and distribution is adequate as defined by the requirements set forth in RSA 378:38 and 378:39. Each party has the right to have an attorney represent the party at the party's own expense.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED, that a Prehearing Conference, pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15, be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on September 20, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., at which each party will provide a preliminary statement of its position with regard to the petition and any of the issues set forth in N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.15 shall be considered; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that, immediately following the Prehearing Conference, UES, the Staff of the Commission and any Intervenors hold a Technical Session to review the petition and allow UES to provide any amendments or updates to its filing; and it is

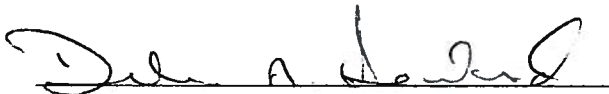
FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.12, UES shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than August 23, 2013, in a newspaper with general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before September 18, 2013; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that pursuant to N.H. Code Admin. Rules Puc 203.17, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission seven copies of a

Petition to Intervene with copies sent to UES and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before September 18, 2013, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Code Admin. Rule Puc 203.17 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before September 20, 2013.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this seventh day of August, 2013.


Debra A. Howland
Executive Director

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.

SERVICE LIST - EMAIL ADDRESSES - DOCKET RELATED

Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.11 (a) (1): Serve an electronic copy on each person identified on the service list.

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FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a) Pursuant to N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 (a), with the exception of Discovery, file 7 copies, as well as an electronic copy, of all documents including cover letter with: DEBRA A HOWLAND
EXEC DIRECTOR
NHPUC
21 S. FRUIT ST, SUITE 10
CONCORD NH 03301-2429
- b) Serve an electronic copy with each person identified on the Commission's service list and with the Office of Consumer Advocate.
- c) Serve a written copy on each person on the service list not able to receive electronic mail.